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25
YEARS
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HARRIS COMICS

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RANDOM-DCP

THE BLOOD...
...THE BLOOD IS THE THING.
IT SITS LIKE GUILT, BONE DEEP, WHISPERING DARK, UNWELCOME TRUTHS...
...A STAIN THAT SHE CANNOT PURGE WITH PILLS OR BLADES OR ALCOHOL.
PLEASE NO ...NOT AGAIN... NOT AGAIN!
YET STILL, SHE TRIES TO CLEANSE HERSELF WITH PAIN.
I'M SORRY... I'M SO SORRY... I CAN'T STOP IT! IT WON'T STOP!
BUT LIKE DEATH AND DESTINY, IT WILL ALWAYS BE THERE...
...IN THE BLOOD.

DOWNTOWN BOSTON.
THE STREET PULSES WITH A LIFE-FORCE ALL ITS OWN-- THE CHOIR OF A THOUSAND THROATS SINGING IN RED HARMONIES.
IT PRICKS AT MY APPETITE, INVIGORATING AND TEASING ME, BUT I WILL NOT DRINK A LIFE TONIGHT...
Chee-ohe original
...TONIGHT I AM JUST WINDOW SHOPPING.

I WON'T TASTE AN INNOCENT'S LIFE, NO MATTER HOW TANTALIZINGLY THEIR BLOOD CALLS TO ME.
HOWEVER, THAT'S NOT WHY I'VE LEFT THE NIGHTLIFE BEHIND AND COME TO THIS RAT HOLE.
I'M BEING STALKED -- SOMEONE IS HUNTING ME. I'VE SENSED HIS PRESENCE TRAILING ME ALL EVENING.
IF HE'S TO MAKE HIS MOVE, I WANT IT HERE, ON MY TERMS -- AWAY FROM WHERE OTHERS COULD GET HURT.
KSHNK! KSHNK! KSHNK!
SATYR AND CIRCE!

CLOSE, BUT NOT CLOSE ENOUGH, MY MYSTERIOUS FRIEND! IF YOU WANT ME DEAD, YOU'LL HAVE TO TRY HARDER THAN THAT!
COME ON AND SHOW ME WHAT YOU'RE MADE OF!
OH, I WILL, BELIEVE ME!
I'M JUST GETTING WARMED UP!

THIS'S WHERE THE FUN STARTS FOR REAL, YOU PIECE OF GRAVE TRASH!
THAT KNIFE... A SILVER KUKRI! AN ANCIENT, NEPALESE RITUAL BLADE USED IN SLAYING THE UNDEAD!
CHOKK!
SUCH WEAPONS ARE RARELY SEEN OUTSIDE THE VATICAN'S SECRET ARSENAL--
NICE MOVE, SWEETHEART, BUT DON'T FORGET...
--IT COULD SEVER ME FROM MY LIFE AS IF I WERE OF MORTAL FLESH!
...I'VE GOT TWO HANDS!

DO YOURSELF A FAVOR, HOLD THAT PRETTY HEAD HIGH AN' I'LL MAKE THIS QUICK AN' CLEAN!
CHUNK!
THANKS FOR THE OFFER--
--BUT I'M HAPPY WITH WHERE IT IS RIGHT NOW!
GNNH!
HOWEVER, IF YOU VALUE YOUR OWN, YOU'LL EXPLAIN WHY YOU'VE BEEN TRAILING ME ALL EVENING?
DON'T PLAY THE INNOCENT WITH ME, LOVE! YOU CAN'T LEAVE A STRING OF CORPSES IN YOUR WAKE AND HOPE NO ONE...

...WILL... NOTICE.
OH, CHRIST! YOU'RE NOT HER, ARE YOU? YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HER!
WHO? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
ANSWER ME!
I'VE BEEN ON A BLOODY, WILD GOOSE CHASE ALL NIGHT!
TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON OR I'LL OPEN YOUR THROAT LIKE A FAUCET!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, SWEETHEART. I'VE BEEN THREATENED BY PROFESSIONALS. A BLOODSUCKER LIKE YOU IS SMALL BEER.
WHERE'D YOU GET OFF BEING SO DAMN SUPERIOR!? I COULD KILL YOU WITH A FLICK OF MY WRIST!
SO EITHER DO IT OR PUSH OFF AND STOP WASTING MY TIME!
"WASTING MY TIME?" WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE...
...WAIT, THAT ACCENT-- YOU'RE BRITISH, THAT'S WHY! YOU PEOPLE ARE SO ARROGANT YOU THINK YOU'RE SUPERIOR TO EVERYONE!
TOO BLOODY RIGHT, ESPECIALLY AMERICANS, WE'VE NEVER FORGIVEN YOU FOR THAT INDEPENDENCE THING, Y'KNOW--
--OH, JESUS! IT'S HER!

NO! THIS'S MY FAULT! I DIDN'T THINK! I MISTOOK YOU FOR HER AN' THIS'S THE PRICE OF MY MISTAKE!
THIS IS A VAMPIRE'S HANDIWORK!
NO SHIT! GUESS THIS KIND OF THING RUNS IN THE FAMILY, EH?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU, VAMPIRELLA, THE SWEET LITTLE NECK BITER WHO FIGHTS ON THE SIDE OF THE GOOD GUYS!
IT'S ALL BOLLOCKS! ONCE THE BLOODLUST'S ON YOU, YOU'RE ALL THE SAME. BELIEVE ME, I KNOW.
SPARE ME YOUR PREJUDICES.
WHOEVER DID THIS KNOWS YOU ARE ON TO THEM. MY KIND HIDE THEIR KILLS, SO NOT TO ATTRACT UNWANTED ATTENTION...
...THIS IS A CHALLENGE. SHE WANTS YOU TO GO AFTER HER.
SHE'S PLAYING WITH YOU, BUT IT'S A ONE-SIDED GAME. WHEN SHE GETS BORED, SHE WILL BITE OUT YOUR LIFE UNLESS WE FIND HER FIRST.
NO CHANCE. I WORK ALONE.
OF COURSE YOU DO...

JUST MAKE STRAIGHT FOR THE CAR, MISS FERRER, NO SUDDEN MOVEMENTS. WE'LL ALL TAKE THIS NICE AND EASY.
I'M SORRY... Ahuh, uh... I'M SO SORRY!
YEAH, SURE! THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID WHEN YOU WERE RIPPING THOSE GUYS OPEN!
KNOCK IT OFF, DETECTIVE! NOW ISN'T THE TIME.
S.W.A.T
SHE'S UP THERE! I SEE YOU! I SEE YOU!
MISS FERRER?
SHE'S THERE! CAN'T YOU SEE!? ARE YOU BLIND!?
SHE'S LOSING IT! GET HER IN THE CAR-- NOW!
SEE, I TOLD YOU IT WAS HER! SHE'S A GODDAMN PSYCHO!
I SUPPOSE, BUT SHE SEEMED SO SUBDUED, ALMOST TERRIFIED, EVEN. I GUESS I WAS WRONG...
SHE'S THERE! SHE'S REAL, I TELL YOU!!
"... WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT SHE WAS SUCH A MONSTER?"

LATER.
HIS NAME IS JOHN McGILL. HE IS AN OCCULT BOUNTY HUNTER, A KILLER OF CREATURES THAT DWELL IN CREATION'S SHADOW... BUT IT WAS NOT ALWAYS THIS WAY...
...HE WAS ONCE A WARRIOR PRIEST, A BROTHER OF A SECRET VATICAN ORDER DELIVERING THE LORD'S WORD ON A BULLET AND A BLADE--CULLING THE FORCES OF DARKNESS WITH HOLY RIGHTEOUSNESS.
YET, AFTER MANY YEARS OF LOYAL SERVICE, HE SUFFERED A CRISIS OF FAITH AND QUIT THE ORDER...
...BECAUSE OF A WOMAN.
IN A SICK, SENSE OF IRONY, A YOUNG NOVICE NUN HAD BEEN TURNED BY A NOSFERATU.
SHE KNEW WHAT SHE HAD BECOME, YET SHE FOUGHT THE BLOODLUST, PRAYED TO GOD FOR HELP... BUT HE DID NOT HEAR HER.
IN KINDNESS, McGILL ENDED HER LIFE BUT THE CHURCH REFUSED TO BURY HER ON HOLY GROUND. IN DISGUST, HE ABANDONED THEM.
I KNOW THIS IS TRUE. HE WOULD NOT LIE TO ME--HE IS IN MY THRALL.

HE COULD NOT RESIST ME. I HAVE CAST A GLAMOUR UPON HIM.
LIKE THE COBRA MESMERIZING ITS PREY, I HAVE SEDUCED HIS CONSCIOUSNESS WITH MY OWN, EASING AWAY HIS RESISTANCE TO PLUCK THE TENDER TRUTHS FROM WITHIN.
JOHN McGILL IS A BURNT-OUT CASE -- THE TRAGEDY OF HIS LIFE GNAWS AT HIM.
IT IS NOT A METHOD I RELISH, SWIMMING THROUGH ANOTHER'S MIND, ESPECIALLY ONE STEEPED IN BLOOD AND GUILT LIKE THIS. I NEED TO PURGE MYSELF OF HIS EXPERIENCES.
HE CANNOT CLEANSE HIMSELF OF THIS VIOLENCE

...AFTER LEAVING THE ORDER HE FOUND HE COULDN'T FIT WITHIN THE WORLD HE'D BEEN FIGHTING SO HARD TO PROTECT.
HE'D BECOME AS MUCH A MONSTER AS THOSE HE'D FOUGHT AND KILLED.
YOU ARE FREE TO MOVE NOW. I HAVE RELEASED MY GLAMOUR. YOUR MIND IS YOUR OWN ONCE MORE--
--PLEASE UNDERSTAND, I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY. I ONLY WISH TO HELP.
YOU'VE A FUNNY WAY OF SHOWING IT! I TAKE IT YOU GOT WHAT YOU WANTED?
SOME, BUT NOT ALL. WHO IS MARIA FERRER AND WHY ARE YOU HUNTING HER?
Ah, HELL, YOU MAY AS WELL KNOW IT ALL.
MARIA FERRER HAS LEFT A STRING OF BLOODLESS GUTTED CORPSES OF YOUNG MEN ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE LAW AND F.B.I. ARE AFTER HER BUT THEY'RE BARKING UP THE WRONG TREE..
..SHE'S NO COMMON OR GARDEN SERIAL KILLER, BUT SOME KIND OF VAMPIRE HYBRID. I'M SURE OF IT!
AND NOW SHE'S COME TO BOSTON?

SPEAK OF THE DEVIL!
IT'S HER!
"...ARRESTED MARIA FERRER EARLIER TONIGHT IN CONNECTION WITH A SERIES OF MURDERS BELIEVED TO HAVE INCLUDED HER OWN PARENTS, AND A HOMICIDE EARLIER THIS EVENING..."
NO! THE BLOODY IDIOTS! THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'VE GOT THERE! SHE'S A TICKING BOMB!
LISTEN, I'VE ENCOUNTERED PLENTY OF VAMPIRES IN MY TIME, AND SHE'S NOT ONE OF THEM.
SHE LOOKED MORE LIKE PREY THAN PREDATOR. SHE WAS TERRIFIED. HYSTERICAL! SHE IS BEING HUNTED OR HAUNTED BY SOMETHING...
...POSSIBLY THE SAME THING THAT'S PLAYING GAMES WITH YOU!
I HATE TO ADMIT IT, BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. THIS DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT; SHE WOULDN'T LET HERSELF BE CAPTURED THAT EASILY!
OKAY, SO I NEED YOUR HELP, BUT DON'T THINK WE'RE FRIENDS OR PARTNERS. THIS'S JUST FOR THE DURATION. GOT IT?
AGREED! AND THE FIRST THING WE NEED TO DO IS TALK TO MARIA FERRER!

ELSEWHERE.
THE ONLY SOUND IS HER BREATHING, RAGGED AND HARD.
THE CRIES AND SCREAMS AND GUNFIRE HAVE DIED AWAY NOW, ONLY A GRAVEYARD STILLNESS REMAINS UNTIL ...
BOOM!
AAHUH!
THE HORROR FROM HER RED DREAMS HAS COME HUNTING FOR HER IN THE WAKING WORLD.
KA-DOOM!
SHE REPEATS A PATHETIC MANTRA, TRYING TO HIDE BEHIND WORDS.
KA-DOOM!
THIS ISN'T REAL! IT'S A DREAM... A BAD DREAM!
THE DOOR GROANS AND GIVES A LITTLE MORE.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRECINCT
NO PARKING
THIS MUST BE IT! THOSE ARE TV NETWORK VANS! THOSE MEDIA MAGGOTS CRAWL OUT OF THE WOODWORK THE SECOND THEY SMELL A STORY!
TV9
SO, WHERE IS EVERYONE? THE PLACE'S LIKE A MORGUE!
McGILL! THERE'S BLOOD HERE! LOTS OF IT!
WELL, YOU SHOULD HAVE EATEN BEFORE WE LEFT.
I'M SERIOUS! SOMETHING'S VERY WRONG! THERE'S BLOOD IN THE AIR...
...AND IT'S COMING FROM IN HERE!
TV9 NETWORK EYEWITNESS NEWSVAN
BLOODY HELL!
THEY'VE NOT BEEN DRAINED? THIS WAS DONE OUT OF SHEER MALICE...
...OR PLEASURE! I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD A CHAT WITH MISS FERRER!

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SHE'S MUCH OF A CONVERSATIONALIST, DOES IT?
SHE DIDN'T DO THIS! I TOLD YOU BEFORE, SHE ISN'T THE ONE YOU'RE AFTER!
THERE'S A DARKER FORCE AT WORK HERE THAN EVEN I IMAGINED!
PERHAPS.
OPEN YOUR EYES, MAN! DO YOU HONESTLY THINK THAT PITIFUL WRECK OF A GIRL DID ALL THIS?
I DON'T KNOW, BUT I'M GONNA FIND OUT!
McGILL! WAIT!

THAT'S A GOOD SET OF LUNGS YOU'VE GOT! I CAN'T WAIT TO TASTE THEM!
GNNHH!
Uhuh... HAH! HAH! HAH! HAH! HAH!
IT'S TRUE! YOU ARE REAL! I'M NOT LOSING MY MIND!
WHAT'S THAT? ARE YOU LAUGHING AT ME, BITCH?!
YOU'RE THE MONSTER WITH MY FACE! THE ONE WHO'S HAUNTED MY DREAMS FOR AS LONG AS I CAN RECALL, BUT WHY?
WHAT HAVE I DONE? WHO ARE YOU? TELL ME!!
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS...
...I'M LAMIA...I'M YOUR BIG SISTER!

YOU'RE LYING!
AM I?
HAVE YOU NEVER FELT AN ABSENCE IN YOUR LIFE --AS IF YOU WERE ONE OF A MISSING PAIR?
NO! I... YES, I HAVE.
I'D OFTEN DREAM OF ANOTHER ME, IN A HELLISH PLACE DOING UNSPEAKABLE THINGS...
HA! THAT WAS ME! YOU COULD SEE INTO MY WORLD JUST AS I COULD YOURS-
--A HAPPY CHILD DOTED ON BY LOVING PARENTS! A LIFE THAT SHOULD'VE BEEN MINE!
GHHHKK... I DON'T UNDER-STAND--
THEN LISTEN! BEFORE WE WERE BORN, OUR PARENTS BARGAINED FOR WEALTH AND POWER WITH A DUKE OF HELL!
THEY TRADED HIM THEIR FIRST-BORN CHILD... ME! BUT MOMMA HAD TWINS!
SHE HID YOU FROM MY LORD, BUT YOU CAN'T TRICK A TRICKSTER!
HE WAITED PATIENTLY, LET THEM HAVE THEIR FUN AND THINK THEY'D SUCCEEDED, THEN SENT ME, HIS LOYAL AVATAR, TO RIP OUT THEIR LIVES!
I SAVED YOU 'TIL LAST. I'VE TOYED WITH YOU, HOUNDED YOU, BUTCHERED THOSE CLOSE TO YOU, AND DROVE YOU TO NEAR-MADNESS...
...BUT THE FUN'S OVER! NOW YOU DIE!

WHAT THE --CHRIST!
AAHUH!
GET OFF HER, YOU SLAG!
KA-SHUNK
NYAARGH!
HELLO, LITTLE PRIEST! WE MEET IN THE FLESH AT LAST! I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT YOU FROM THAT WHORE NUN YOU SPIKED!
NO ONE'S GOING ANY-WHERE EXCEPT YOU--IN PIECES!
SHE SENDS HER REGARDS FROM HELL AND LOOKS FORWARD TO YOUR JOINING HER!

OOOH! AM I SUPPOSED TO BE SCARED? I DON'T THINK SO!
I'M THE *PARAMOUR* OF A DUKE OF HELL! MY LIEGE USES LITTLE BLOODSUCKERS LIKE YOU TO LICK CLEAN THE *HUMAN OFFAL* FROM BETWEEN HIS TEETH!
YOU'RE NO THREAT! YOU'RE A JOKE!
CRACK!
YOUR NAME IS SPOKEN WITH *DISGUST* IN THE PIT! YOU *DISHONOR* WHAT YOU ARE!
KNEEL, SLUT, AND THANK ME...
...KILLING YOU WILL BE A *KINDNESS*!
NO!

KRUNCH!
ENOUGH!
YOUR KIND OVERESTIMATES YOUR ABILITIES!
SUCH VANITY IS A WEAKNESS EASILY EXPLOITED!
SLUNCH!
I AM NO WRETCHED SOUL TO BE TORMENTED! I AM LILITH'S BLOOD-CHILD! REMEMBER THAT AS I END YOUR LIFE!
AMATEUR!
VAMPIRELLA, LISTEN, I...
McGILL, NOW IS NOT THE TIME! WHERE IS THE GIRL?

SHE'S HERE, SHE...
...Oh, no!
LOWER THE WEAPON, CHILD. WE ARE NOT GOING TO HARM YOU.
THERE'S NOTHING TO FEAR.
YOU'RE WRONG! SHE BIT ME! THAT THING... MY SISTER... BIT ME. NOW I'M BECOMING LIKE HER!
I CAN FEEL MYSELF CHANGING!
IT'S IN MY BLOOD -- I'M EVIL JUST LIKE THE REST OF MY FAMILY!
MY PARENTS MADE A DEAL WITH A DEMON! MY SISTER BECAME ONE, AND NOW, I AM TOO!
I DESERVE TO DIE!
NO, YOU DON'T, LOVE. NOW PUT IT DOWN.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND! I KNEW I WAS CURSED SOMEHOW, THAT THOSE I CARED FOR WOULD DIE, BUT I DIDN'T WARN THEM!
IT'S LIKE I HAVE A LETHAL INFECTION THAT KILLS EVERYONE I KNOW IT'S ONLY RIGHT THAT I SHOULD BE IT'S LAST VICTIM!
NO, CHILD! DON'T!
I'M SORRY.. Nhhhh..*
SHUNK!

SHE WAS RIGHT! SHE WAS BECOMING LIKE THE OTHER ONE! A WHILE LONGER AND SHE'D HAVE BEEN AT OUR THROATS!
WHAT A PITIFUL WASTE!
WE MUST DESTROY HER BODY! WE CAN'T CHANCE EVEN A TRACE OF THE CREATURE'S TAINT REMAINING! I'LL...
YOU'LL DO NOTHING! YOU'VE HOUNDED THIS GIRL TO HER GRAVE! SHE WAS NOT THE KILLER, AS YOU WELL KNOW, BUT YOU DIDN'T CARE!
YOU'RE LOSING YOUR GRIP, McGILL. YOU FORGET I'VE SEEN INSIDE YOUR MIND. A LIFETIME OF GUILT AND DESPAIR HAS CONSUMED YOUR REASONING--
--I SUGGEST YOU FIND ANOTHER PROFESSION BEFORE ANOTHER INNOCENT SUFFERS BECAUSE OF YOU...

...AND PAYS THE PRICE WITH THEIR DEAREST BLOOD!

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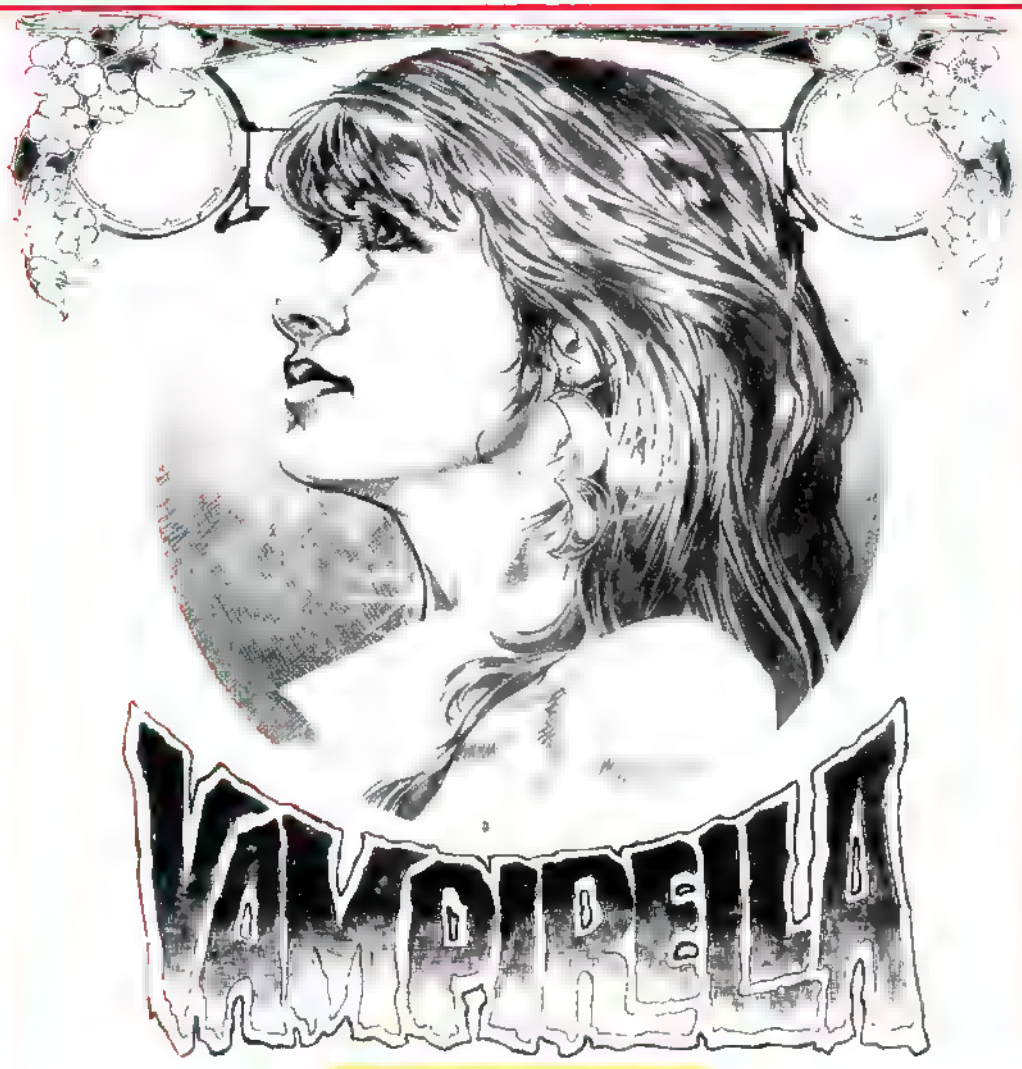
STRIKES
BRIAN
BILL DUBAY
JOSÉ GONZALEZ

BACK FROM THE DEAD!

VAMPIRELLA LIVES #1 (of 3)



PENCILS OF DIE-CUT COVER

WARREN ELLIS ♦ AMANDA CONNER ♦ JIMMY PALMIOTTI

Die-cut cover by JOE QUESADA

COMING IN

DECEMBER 1996

MARVEL COMICS

GRAVEYARDS -- ON A CHILL WINTER NIGHT, THE SILENCE CAN BE DEAFENING. THE DEAD CAN BE HEARD WHISPERING IN THEIR TOMBS. SOME COME HERE TO RELIVE HAUNTING MEMORIES WITH FRIENDS LONG-PASSED FROM THE WORLD...

... OTHERS COME TO WATCH DANCING SHADOWS PROMENADE ACROSS WALKWAYS OF THE IMAGINATION. YET OTHERS COME, BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THE DEAD THAN THE LIVING.

ALL WHO COME SOFTLY RETURN THE WHISPERING OF THE DEAD.

WILDWOOD
CEMETERY
LOVED ONES SAW THAT YOU WERE GIVEN *DECENT* BURIALS. HEADSTONES WITH PRETTY EPITAPHS.
YET WHO IS LEFT TO BURY THE DEAD OF A DYING *PLANET?* WHO WILL WRITE PRETTY WORDS FOR THE COUNTLESS BODIES LEFT UNBURIED ON *DRAKULON?*
DENNY COLT
1940

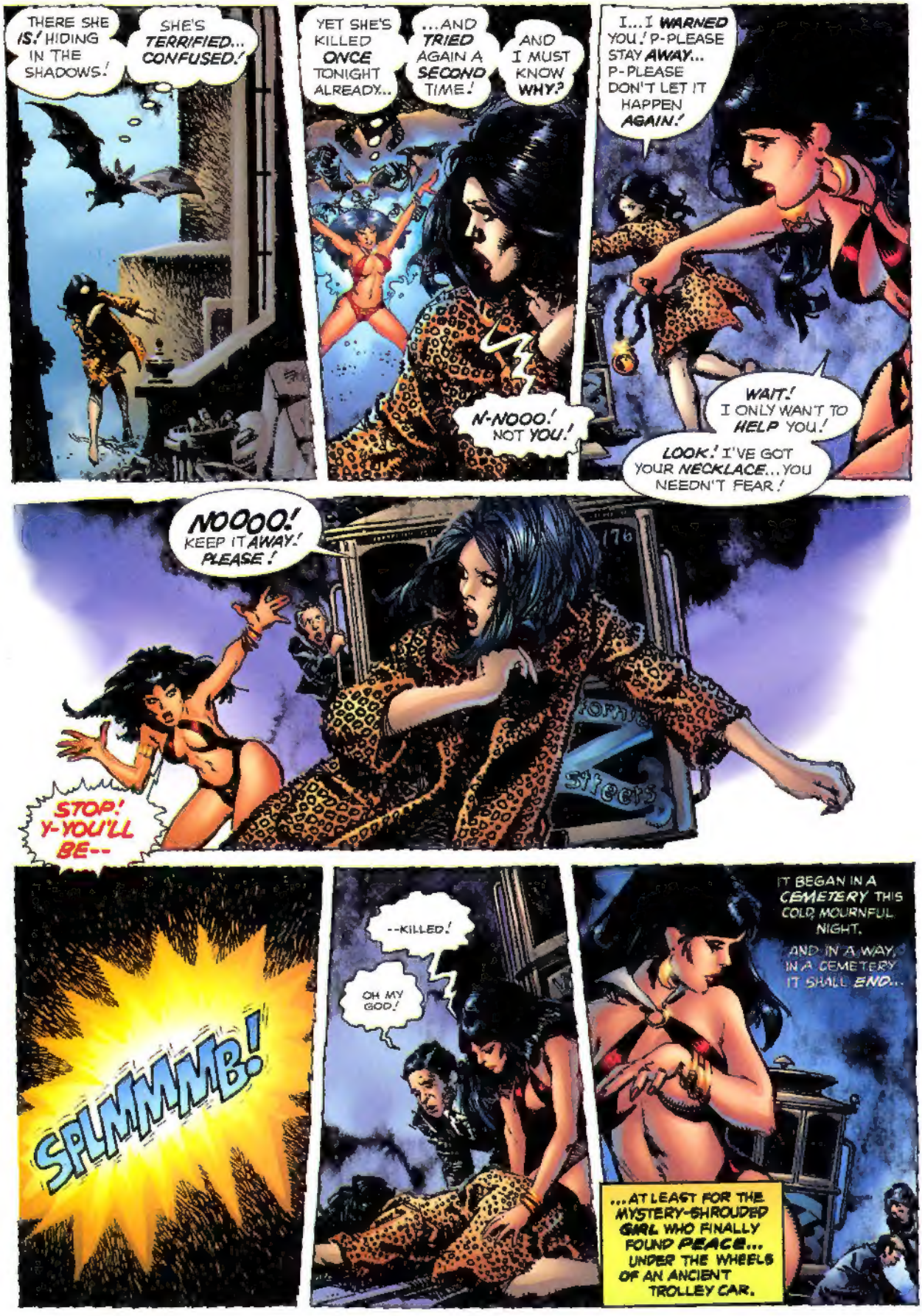
VAMPIRELLA

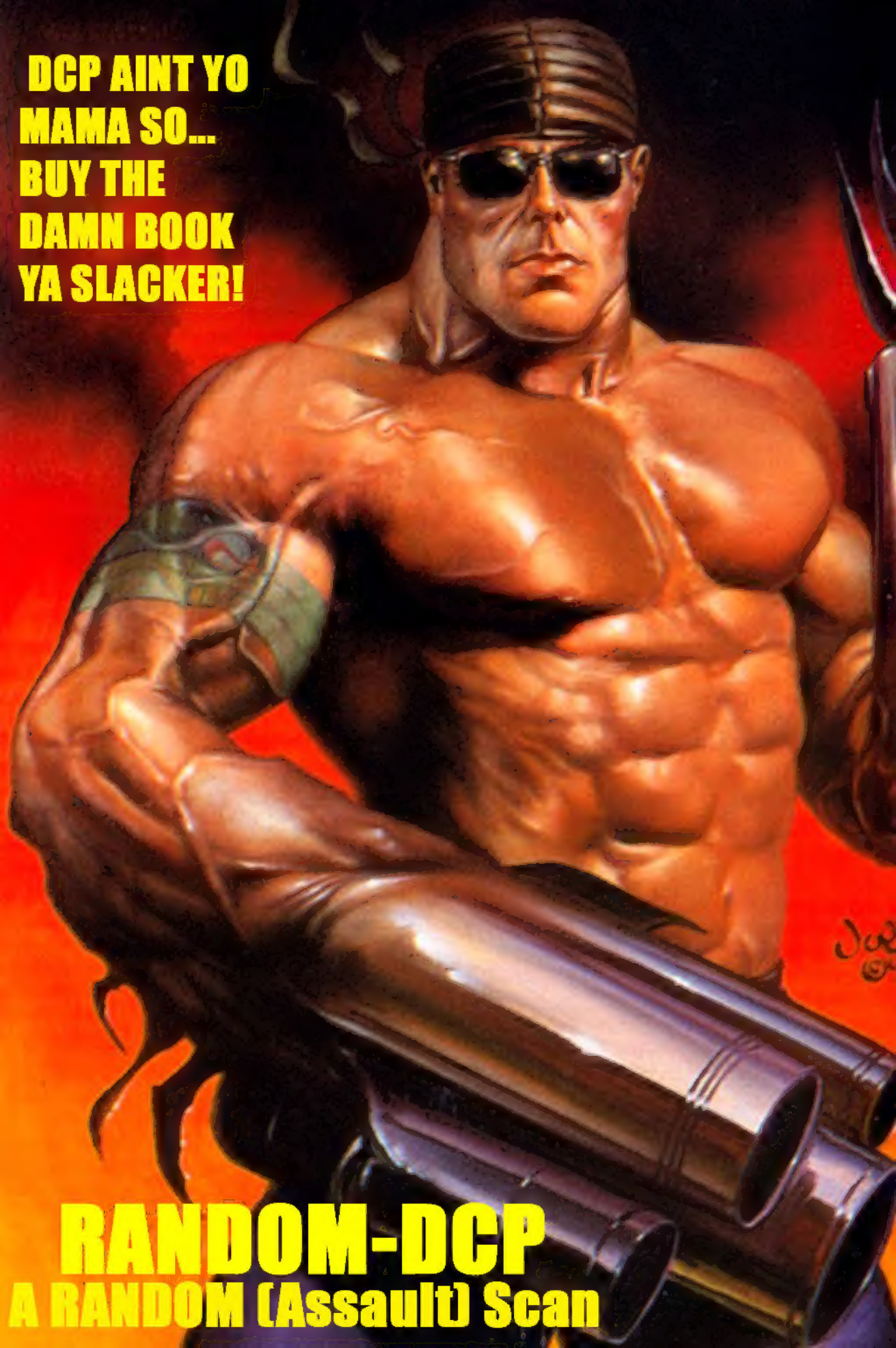
THIS NIGHT, A GIRL FROM THE STARS, LOST IN PENSIVE THOUGHT, WALKS SOLEMNLY, REVERENTLY, OVER THE GRAVES OF THE DEAD... ONLY TO BE STARTLED BY THE BLOODCURDLING SCREAM OF THE DYING...
SOMEONE'S IN TROUBLE!
LIGHTNING-QUICK REFLEXES HURL THE GIRL TOWARDS THE SOURCE OF THE SCREAM... AND A SCENE OF BLOOD-NUMBING HORROR.
OH MY GOD!
IN AN INSTANT, SENSES HONED TO RAZOR-KEENNESS IN INNUMERABLE BATTLES, REACH OUT, SCANNING THE AREA FOR SOMETHING MORE...!
CRUNCHING GRAVEL...
... A MOVING SHADOW!
SOMEONE'S BEHIND THAT TOMBSTONE!
NO! NOOOO! S-STAY AWAY FROM ME!
F-FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!
I... I CAN'T HELP MYSELF!
I-I LL KILL YOU, TOO!
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO HER?
AND BEFORE A STUNNED VAMPIRELLA CAN COMPREHEND WHAT HER EYES SEE, THE TERRIFIED GIRL LUNGES FREE FROM HER GRASP, LOSES SUBSTANCE, AND SLOWLY TRANSFORMS...

STORY: BILL DuBAY / ART: JOSÉ GONZALEZ / COLOR: HABERLIN STUDIOS

... AND THEN...
...THE KILLER CAT LUNGES!
CLAWS OF IRON SHRED THICK WINTER GARMENTS AS IF MADE OF PAPER...
...WHILE HOT, THICK, ANIMAL BREATH NAUSEATES THE GIRL FROM THE STARS WITH ITS CLOSENESS...
...BREATH REEKING FROM THE STENCH OF NEWLY-KILLED HUMAN MEAT!
M-MUST FIGHT BACK...
YOWWWWWLL!
...EVEN IF I HAVE TO KILL!
VICIOUS CLAWS FLAIL ANGRILY IN THE AIR... AND A CRUSHING SIDE BLOW CATCHES VAMPIRELLA FULL IN THE SKULL!
ROWWWWLL!
NOOO! UGN!
BUT AS SHE FALLS, UNCONSCIOUS HANDS CLUTCH A STRANGE NECKLACE THAT HAS GONE UNNOTICED IN THE CONFRONTATION.
AND INSTANTLY, WHAT WAS ONCE A NIGHTMARISH BEAST, TRANSCENDS INTO A FRIGHTENED, CONFUSED YOUNG WOMAN!

QUICKLY, SHE PICKS UP THE SHREDDED COAT TO COVER HER NAKEDNESS... HER SHAME...
...AND IN LESS THAN A HEARTBEAT... SHE IS GONE!
LONG MOMENTS PASS BEFORE A STAR-CROSSED VICTIM STIRS FROM THE DEPTHS OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS...
...AND SITS UP TO CLEAR TANGLED COBWEBS FROM A BATTERED, ACHING HEAD.
T-THAT GIRL... THE CAT... THEY'RE GONE!
SHE USED THIS TO TRANSFORM HERSELF INTO THAT NIGHTMARE!
I'VE GOT TO FIND HER... FIND OUT HOW... FIND OUT WHY!
MY COAT'S GONE... AND I DON'T NEED THREE GUESSES WHERE IT'S GONE TO.
THE COAT'S THICKNESS PROTECTED ME FROM THAT CAT'S RAZOR CLAWS. WHAT LEFT OF IT IS NO DOUBT PROTECTING A FRIGHTENED GIRL FROM THE NIGHT'S ELEMENTS!
IN THE TWINKLING OF AN EYE, THE BEAUTY FROM DRAKULON LEAPS INTO THE AIR... AND EVOLVES INTO A TINY, LEATHERN BAT.


THERE SHE IS! HIDING IN THE SHADOWS!
SHE'S TERRIFIED... CONFUSED!
YET SHE'S KILLED ONCE TONIGHT ALREADY...
...AND TRIED AGAIN A SECOND TIME!
AND I MUST KNOW WHY?
N-NOOO! NOT YOU!
I...I WARNED YOU! P-PLEASE STAY AWAY... P-PLEASE DON'T LET IT HAPPEN AGAIN!
WAIT! I ONLY WANT TO HELP YOU!
LOOK! I'VE GOT YOUR NECKLACE...YOU NEEDN'T FEAR!
NOOOO! KEEP IT AWAY! PLEASE!
STOP! Y-YOU'LL BE--
SPLMMMB!
--KILLED!
OH MY GOD!
IT BEGAN IN A CEMETERY THIS COLD, MOURNFUL NIGHT.
AND IN A WAY, IN A CEMETERY IT SHALL END...
...AT LEAST FOR THE MYSTERY-SHROUDED GIRL WHO FINALLY FOUND PEACE... UNDER THE WHEELS OF AN ANCIENT TROLLEY CAR.


DCP AINT YO
MAMA SO...
BUY THE
DAMN BOOK
YA SLACKER!
RANDOM-DCP
A RANDOM (Assault) Scan